

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is requiring restriction to one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-12, drawn to a device, and

Group II: Claims 14-23, drawn to a method of purifying, concentrating,
screening or detecting a target.

The Examiner is also requiring Applicants to elect a single species from each of (a) to

(e):

- (a): the electrophilic groups recited in claim 9;
- (b): the nucleophilic groups recited in claim 10;
- (c): the bonds recited in claim 11;
- (d) the probes recited in claim 12; and
- (e) the objects recited in claim 19.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, Claims 1-12, drawn to a device, with traverse, on the grounds that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctiveness between the identified groups. Also, it has not been shown that a burden exists in searching the claims of the two groups.

Moreover, the M.P.E.P. at § 803 states as follows:

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without a serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.”

Applicants respectfully submit that a search of all of the claims would not impose a serious burden on the Office.

Additionally, Applicants elect as species: (a) activated ester, (b) amine, (c) peptide, (d) oligonucleotide, and (e) cell. Claims 1-12 (and 19) are readable on the elected species.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

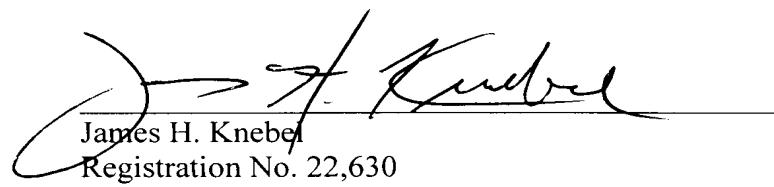
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)



James H. Knebel
Registration No. 22,630